

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 293845

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY:AF:RJTIERNEY
APPROVED BY:AF:TWSEELYE
S/S:MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MASERU IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 293845

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADORS ARMSTRONG AND SCHAUFLE ONLY

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM GENEVA DATED DECEMBER 1, 1976
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 9591

NODIS

TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FROM REINHARDT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: MOGWE CONFIRMS THE FRONT LINE
PREDISPOSITION

1. FRANK WISNER SAW BOTSWANAN FOREIGN MINISTER, ARCHIE
MOGWE, THIS AFTERNOON. MOGWE TOLD HIM THAT THE OBSERVERS,
LED BY CHONA, WERE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT AND, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MOGWE, WERE UNDER
INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR PRESIDENTS TO PRESS FOR AN
INTERIM GOVERNMENT WHICH REPRESENTS A TOTAL TRANSFER
OF POWER AND NOTHING MORE THAN A SYMBOLIC WHITE RHODESIAN
PRESENCE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 293845

2. MOGWE ADDED THAT HE IS NOW THE ONLY OBSERVER WHO HAS FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONS. HIS READ "DO ANYTHING NECESSARY TO GET A SETTLEMENT FOR ZIMBABWE." MOGWE FINGERED CHONA AS THE SPOKESMAN OF THE OBSERVERS BUT SAID THAT EVEN CHONA COULD NOT CHANGE HIS POSITION SIGNIFICANTLY WITHOUT NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PRESIDENTS.

3. WHILE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S POSITION CONTAINS SOME FLEXIBILITY, MOGWE FELT THAT NO SIGNIFICANT SHARING OF POWER WAS PLANNED. IF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS TO TAKE A DIFFERENT APPROACH IN GENEVA, THE PRESIDENTS WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION, COORDINATE THEIR POLICY, AND GIVE THEIR OBSERVERS NEW INSTRUCTIONS. CATTO UNQUOTE ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

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